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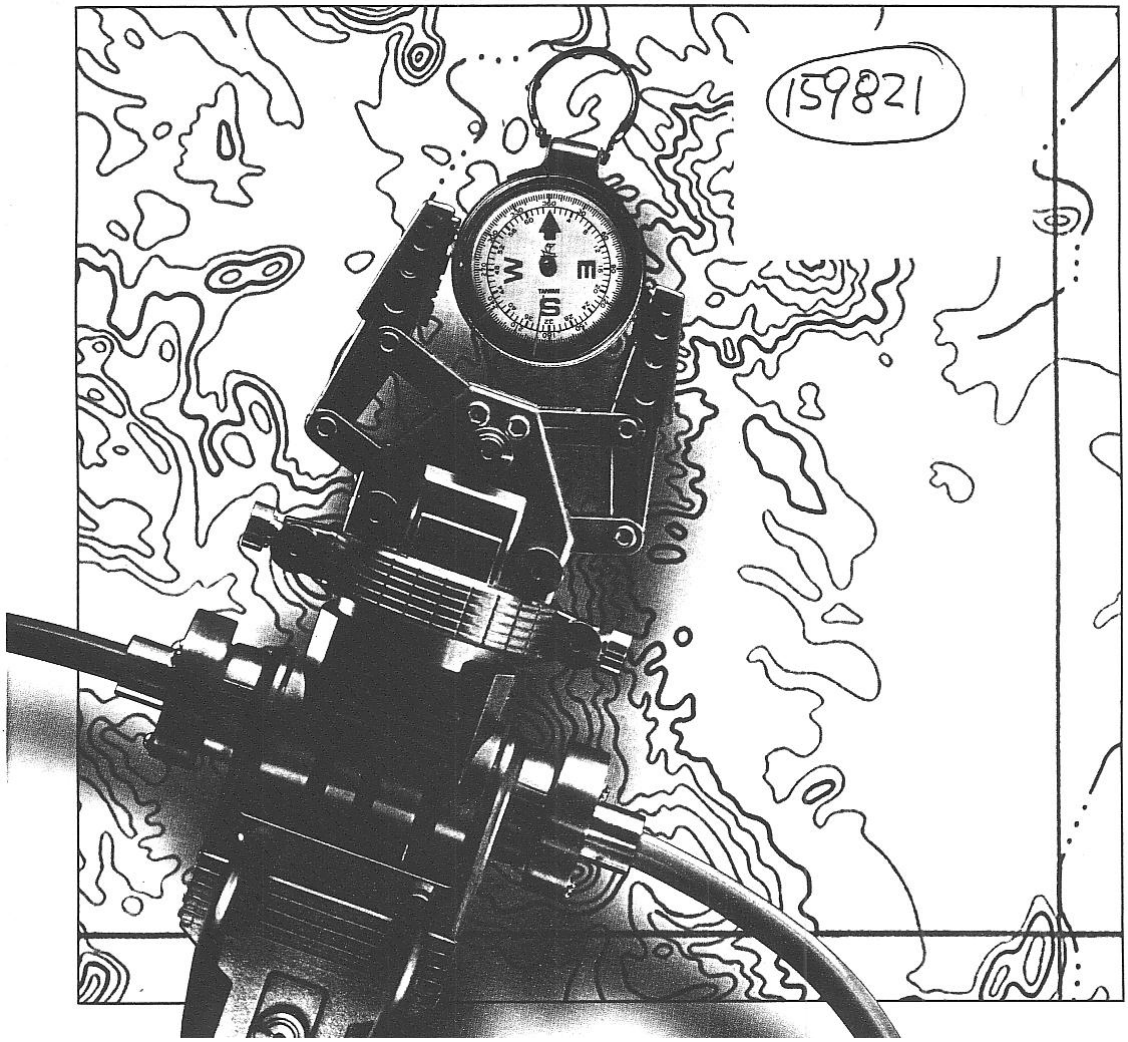
THE PERSONAL ROBOT

NAVIGATOR

MERL K. MILLER NELSON WINKLESS JOE BOSWORTH



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THE PERSONAL ROBOT NAVIGATOR

The Personal Robot Navigator unveils the soul of autonomous robotics. Merl, Nels and Joe trace the future, profile the possibilities, show the technical and logistical intricacies of autonomous robot navigation, and share stories formerly told only in the back rooms of littered software laboratories and the dive bars of Portland, Albuquerque, and Denver. The art of software engineering as it pertains to robot navigation compresses the action, the fear, the pain, and the glory of navigating through cluttered rooms full of obstacles and pets. As the authors note, "Robot navigation is the essential first skill for autonomous robots. Once navigation is mastered, the autonomous robot revolution begins in earnest."

"Personal Robot Navigator presents a good discussion of how the technology operates in the real world where your expectations are not always met. Objects are not always in the same place, and sensors are not always accurate, but a good design can allow the robot to complete its tasks."

PAUL MALENFANT, Software Engineer
Data General Corporation

"I learned that the robot can use nodes to navigate. I thought it would be like Rosie in the Jetsons, but it wasn't. But then, maybe Rosie is further in the future. Making the robot go crazy is fun. I did that by increasing the speed to the max. The software is easy to learn and fun to use. It makes learning about robots fun."

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